

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A method for producing an  $\alpha$ -alumina powder ~~comprising~~consisting essentially of steps of:
  - mixing an aluminum salt with a seed crystal by a method in which the aluminum salt is added to a solvent to obtain a solution or slurry, the seed crystal is added to said solution or slurry, and the solvent is then removed, and
  - calcining the resulting mixture at 600-890°C.
3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the aluminum salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of inorganic aluminum salts, hydrates thereof, organic aluminum salts and hydrates thereof.
4. (original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the inorganic aluminum salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum nitrate, aluminum sulfate, ammonium aluminum sulfate and ammonium aluminum carbonate hydroxide.
5. (original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the organic aluminum salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxalate, aluminum acetate, aluminum stearate, aluminum lactate and aluminum laurate.
6. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the inorganic aluminum salt is aluminum nitrate.

7. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the seed crystal is at least one selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -alumina, diaspora, iron oxide, chromium oxide and titanium oxide.

8. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the seed crystal has a BET specific surface area of 12 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

9. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the seed crystal has a BET specific surface area of 15-150 m<sup>2</sup>/g.